John Hancock Esq.r

London 7th July 1770.

Dear Sir

Since our last respects of which the above is a Copy, We have been favourd with yours of 18th & 25th May, the former of wch came by Capt. Scott in your Ship Lydia.

We now enclose you Messrs. Harrison & Co. Rect. for £3000. paid them for your Account as mentiond in the Postscript to our last. We also enclose Accot. of Sales of your Cargo consignd us by Hall. for Nett Pds of which shall credit you £1872..12..11. the latter end of this month, when we are to receive the money, & shall then pay Messrs. Harrison & Co. about the Ballance of what will be due from us to you, their receipt for which shall be transmitted you.

We observe you had recd our several Letters in the Spring with your Accot. Curr.t & that you would examine it the first opportunity, & inform us how it was found, for which shall be obliged.

The Goods you are pleased to consign us by Capt. Scott are all safely landed. The Oyl we have sold at £21..10 p.r Ton & the Ashes at 42 p.r Ct. The Bone is not yet sold nor any presens prospect of Sale till after the success of the Greenland Fishery is fully known; We have had several reports respecting it, some that it is good & some bad, but we dare not yet depend upon either; Three or Four Ships are arrived, & they have been pretty successfull; We are ourselves rather inclined to think that it will not prove a bad Fishery, but rather middling - You have certainly been misinformed by whoever told you that Whalefins were gott up to £1,100. We have not known anything like that price given thro' all this year, We mean for American Bone, Dutch Fins which pay a Custom of £80. p.r Ton & always sell greatly beyond any others, we believe has been sold for £1,100. but indeed there has been little, very little American Bone imported, which has been the principal cause of the price advancing to what it did in the Month of March & April last; Just before we sold your Bone last Winter our Letters & those recd by the other Houses here all agreed that the American Fishery had been large, & that a large quantity of Bone might be expected. This Accot added to the Knowledge we had of the great success of the Greenland Fishery, induced not only us but every holder of American Bone to think it adviseable to sell. The Quantity then here was about 25. Tons, & the whole of it to the best of our knowledge was then upon sold, & not a Ton of it for more, but some for less than we sold yours, it afterwards turnd out contrary to our expectations, that very little Bone was sent from America, the bulk of it having we understand been bought up, & kept back, which made a very material difference & occasioned an advance of price here, wch it was impossible to foresee.

There is now about 20 Ton here which arrived in Scott & Johnson, & no price offers for any of it. The desire we have to render every part of our conduct approved to you Sir has induced us to lay these particulars of the reasons which induced us to sell your Bone before you, & we trust to that candour we have always experienced from you that you will think us not much to blame. It was a measure taken upon the most mature consideration, & what appeared to us at the time most probable to serve your interest. Scott had a very quick Passage, & is now unladen, & shall be dispatched before the end of the month, with an exact conformity to your instructions, but we are greatly doubtfull whether we shall be able to gett much Freight for him. We will most certainly give him all we have ourselves, & procure for him all we can from others but the whole we fear will be but inconsiderable. White is also here & shall not be sold agreeable to your last instructions, but returned with the Ten Tons of Stemp you order for him, & we are sorry to say we fear that will be near, if not quite the whole he will have on board. We shall only wait the arrival of Jarvis who is daily expected & then if we see no room to expect any advantage by keeping him, We shall dispatch him immediately. We have Debited you & credited Capt. White Accot £100. according to your directions, & have credited you £2..2..— for the P.s of Duck short packed in Bale

N. 3. P. Scott. The getting liberty to land the returned Goods was attended with a great deal of difficulty, but after a constant attendance upon the Custom House for 10 days, we at last were permitted to land them into a Warehouse under the King's Lock, where the whole of now lay; This was permitted as a great favour & indeed is so, for the bringing back the India Goods & some others, is directly contrary to Law, & makes not only the Goods, but the Ship liable to Seizure. We once thought the only terms they would grant us would be to return the whole to Boston without unloading them, but we are happy in their being now on shore, & out of danger of seizure. We are greatly indebted to your Friendship for any service done us thro your influence, but we own ourselves greatly at a loss to know in what we can possibly have offended the Town; We are persuaded we have been as much if not more steady in our endeavours to serve the Town than any house here. of

We are sure we have greatly to our own prejudice, discouraged the Importation of — Goods & we cannot conceive how it can be thought that we had shipp'd the greater part of the Goods, that have arrived at Boston this Spring. The Fact is not so. P. Scott alone we shipp'd almost the whole in <u>value</u> of what we shipp'd in the whole Spring. What we sent in Freeman was inconsiderable in value; We know that in that Ship one Person here shipp'd more value than we did for Boston in all the Ships together, & we believe another House here shipp'd in Capt. Burnett much larger value than we did in the whole Spring. P. Davies, Bryant, Lyde, Skilling, Dixey, & all the rest we shipp'd nothing worth notice, & yet several of them were quite full, however Sir, we believe from some Misrepresentation we were fallen under unmerited Censure, for which we cannot account, but we must not omit to acknowledge how much we think ourselves obliged by your good Offices upon that occasion. We desire to be considered as the warm Friends of the Town, instead of Enemies, & in that light you may easily judge how much any Censure must have hurt us, & of course how much we think ourselves indebted to your friendship for preventing such a measure. As to what you mention about the freight of the returned Goods, We desire you would yourself determine upon that matter in any way you please. Scott tells us he brought in the whole about 100 Ton of Measurement, the Freight of which would be £200. Sterling any part or the whole of which shall be placed to your credit. We cannot possibly at any time object to whatever you may think reasonable: Please mention how you think it ought to be settled, & we shall cheerfully conform thereto. We would cheerfully sacrifice a very large Sum to the restoration of Trade upon a solid footing, & can very seriously affirm that if the determination of our House not to send a pennyworth of Goods more, would be the means of producing that happy Event, We should not a moment hesitate to take such a determination, but as our doing it <u>alone</u> could not answer the least good purpose, We can only say that it must be accomplished by some other means; If non Importation is to produce it, that can only be effected by an absolutely general forbearance to send orders, for while orders come, & there are a Thousand People ready to receive & execute them, our refusal, & that of the other principal Houses engaged in the Trade would be of no effect. The Goods would still be sent if the orders came; That measure therefore cannot be effectual unless there is an absolute & general forbearance to send for Goods.

We shall soon have another opportunity of paying our respects to you, & in the mean time are very sincerely.

Copy/ Orig. P. Derby

We have omitted to mention in the foregoing that Capt. White has delivered us 70 Dollars &c. we have sold for £16..16.. for which we credit you. He has also delivered us 3 P. Hds & a Barr. of Sugar which shall dispose of, & transmit you the Account Sales in due season.

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